

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

72011
Ag82
ep.2

"We must open wider the doors of opportunity....
for the good of our country and all our people"
President Eisenhower

NEWS

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Committee for RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Under Secretary, Department of the Interior

Under Secretary, Department of Agriculture (Chairman)

Under Secretary, Department of Commerce

Under Secretary, Department of Labor

Under Secretary, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

Administrator, Small Business Administration

Member, Council of Economic Advisers

February 1960

No. 28

An expanded Rural Development Program is one of the "essential aspects of a sound farm program," according to a statement issued by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson. The Secretary's statement, issued after a conference with President Eisenhower, cited five points, one of which was, "An expanded Rural Development Program to assist farmers in the low income areas (more than half our total farmers) attain a higher standard of living."

The President's budget for 1960-61, which was sent to Congress January 18, includes an increase of approximately \$3 million for expansion of the program to all states. This is in addition to present expenditures of about \$900,000 for educational activities alone.

The overall Rural Development Program budget is also being supplemented by adjustments in regular programs of Federal and State agencies taking part, plus the financial and individual contributions of farm, business, and other leaders in areas concerned.

EXTENSION DIRECTORS RECOMMEND RURAL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH IN ALL STATES

State Extension Service directors have recommended that educational approaches perfected through the Rural Development Program be used in all States to help "lagging" rural communities develop their resources.

The recommendation is one of several in a policy statement entitled "Extension in Rural Development," approved by directors at the recent annual meeting in St. Louis of the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities.

Among other major recommendations contained in the statement were the following:

--Closer coordination of Extension program planning and Rural Development to promote better use of county or area resources.

-- Extension assistance in forming State and area committees to stimulate Rural Development in all States.

-- Setting up "a clear channel within existing Extension organization framework with identifiable leader positions to carry out the Rural Development effort."

This is one of a series of periodic reports on Rural Development Program activities of business, farm, civic, government and other community leadership working together. If you have information that might be of interest to those participating in the program or you wish to receive this Newsletter, address communications to the Editor, Rural Development Program News, Office of Information, Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Pointing out that no rural family today can escape the technological revolution in agriculture, the Extension directors observe in their policy statement: "It is obvious that many families are lagging in the present race for an improved position. The same is true of communities. We believe that much of the prevailing frustration is the consequence of an intense and to some extent fruitless search for logical directions. We also believe that families and communities in such situations can be assisted through combined educational approaches."

Although the directors' recommendations are not binding on any State, their statement will serve to guide Extension's future participation in Rural Development and similar programs.

FEDERAL COMMITTEE FORMED TO
COORDINATE URBAN AREA AID

President Eisenhower has set up a Cabinet-level interdepartmental committee to improve Federal assistance for urban-industrial areas.

Entitled "Interdepartmental Committee to Coordinate Federal Urban Area Assistance," the group "complements the long-established Committee for Rural Development Program with which it is working in close cooperation," according to the President.

Members of the committee include Under Secretary of Commerce, Chairman; Deputy Postmaster General; Under Secretaries of the Interior; Agriculture; Labor; and Health, Education and Welfare; Assistant Secretary of Defense (Supply & Logistics); Administrators of the General Services Administration; Federal Aviation Agency; Small Business Administration; and Housing and Home Finance Agency; Director of the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization; Special Assistant to the President for Public Works; and a member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Victor Roterus, Director of the Commerce Department's Office of Area Development, will serve as executive secretary to the committee.

MORE CREDIT AVAILABLE FOR PART-TIME
FARMERS UNDER NEW FHA REGULATIONS

The Farmers Home Administration has broadened its program in order to make operating and farm ownership loans available to farmers in Rural Development counties who have full-time jobs off the farm.

Previously a farmer had to spend most of his time farming to qualify for FHA credit under the agency's policies covering loans to part-time farmers. This policy, it was found, prevented some farmers from obtaining full production from their farms. Some farmers were also prevented from taking full advantage of new industrial job opportunities opening up in many Rural Development counties.

In 1958-59, loans made by the Farmers Home Administration in Rural Development areas increased \$3 million over those made in the previous year. The revised regulations on credit to part-time farmers are expected to increase the agency's lending still further in program areas.

ARKANSAS LEGISLATURE MEETS IN
SPECIAL SESSION TO PROMOTE
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

The Arkansas State Legislature convened January 19 in a special session called by Governor Orval Faubus to consider changes in laws enabling towns and communities to finance new industry.

(Con't on page 4)

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION *

Illinois: Progress in conservation, land use, and industrialization in the State's two Rural Development counties is described in the current issue of Illinois Research, Agricultural Experiment Station magazine.

North Carolina: An unexpected dividend of the nationally-known Asheville Agricultural Development Council program has been a big increase in the number of new industries using local farm products. The annual "Agricultural-Forestry" issue of the Asheville Citizen-Times reports on the construction of baby food and glass container plants, and plans underway for a large-scale experimental vegetable and fruit farm.

Wisconsin: Sherman Weiss, Extension agent who spearheaded the Rural Development Program in Sawyer County, was recently named "northern area resource development specialist" by the newly-created Wisconsin Department of Resource Development.

Michigan: Six townships in Marquette County, one of the State's Upper Peninsula counties participating in a pioneering "Resource Development" program, have adopted zoning ordinances and building codes, in large part because of work by local program leaders.

Alabama: Fifty-one communities, most of them rural or semi-rural, have now assembled community inventories under a program of the State Planning and Industry Development Board to get outside industry interested in Alabama resources.

Tennessee: People in Erin, Houston County, one of the State's five Rural Development Program counties, are setting a fast pace in the drive for rural area progress. They won a first prize in the Tennessee Community Progress contest last November, then capped this by approving a \$500,000 industrial bond issue.

Minnesota: Starting early in 1958, Clair Cole, a leader in the Itasca County Rural Development Program, has built a wood-working business grossing \$160,000 yearly, with the technical aid of extension foresters working in the program.

Nevada: At a recent meeting of the Rural Development Program committee in Lincoln County, Governor Grant Sawyer reported on his efforts to coordinate resource development work of State agencies. In turn, he heard reports on the county development program.

*(Based on reports of rural development throughout the Nation, including pilot counties and others.)

The new legislation if passed would step up local financing of "bricks and mortar" industrial building.

The session was prompted by prospects of a large-scale rubber manufacturer establishing in Batesville, trade center of a four-county Rural Development area.

Leaders in the four-county area around Batesville have now completed the first phase of an experimental project to find more effective methods of extending employment services to rural communities, and promoting a better balance between agriculture and industry.

Working closely with Rural Development Program committees and the Arkansas Extension Service, State Employment Service personnel interviewed and tested the job skills of some 6,000 people in the four-county area. According to reports, the manufacturer's decision to establish a plant in the Batesville area was influenced by availability of this manpower data.

Cooperating government agencies and private groups are now assembling information on other basic resources in the area, including such items as water, transportation, and raw materials. It's all part of a long-term plan to develop the area economy, stimulate industry growth, and open up better opportunities for rural people.

Similar test programs of the U. S. Labor Department are under way in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Wisconsin, but on a county rather than an area basis. Commenting on the national importance of the four-state experimental program, Under Secretary of Labor James T. O'Connell says the Department of Labor hopes to uncover new approaches to supplying rural people with better job guidance, methods of testing skills, and industry development services.

WORKSHOP BRINGS TOGETHER
SOUTHWESTERN PROGRAM LEADERS

Some 350 local leaders and professional workers taking part in the Rural Development Program in Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas had an opportunity to compare progress -- and problems -- during a two-day workshop at Hot Springs, Arkansas, January 13-15.

Among topics discussed during the two-day meeting were program organization, causes of low incomes in rural areas, organization for Rural Development, industrialization, and vocational and welfare programs.

Speakers included Under Secretary of Agriculture True D. Morse; Dr. John White, Vice President for Agriculture, University of Arkansas; Errol Hunter, Assistant Director of Extension, Oklahoma State University; C. A. Vines, Director, Agricultural Extension Service, Arkansas; and C. E. Kemmerly, Jr., Assistant Director, Agricultural Extension Service, Louisiana.